

The Palmetto Vindicator

The Newsletter of the Palmetto Battalion, Inc.

Volume XV Number 2

March 2002

Field Orders

Comrades and Kindred Spirits:

Well, the spring re-enacting season is underway. As I write, Aiken has been a success and the Columns event is in a few days and Averasboro right on its heels. Hopefully they will both be successes with great memorable moments by the time this is published.

I have been delighted to hear some very positive comments from officers and men alike in reference to the brigade drill that we had at Aiken. When I started re-enacting some eleven years ago, maneuvers were basically a semi-coordinated company level thing. We've come a long ways in actually looking like a battalion and it appears that many of you share my goal of taking things to the next level where we can actually have brigade maneuvers. Your commitment to excellence warms my heart.

At Aiken, the battalion membership voted to add an additional \$2000 to the fund we started last year that is dedicated to the preservation of the 6th SC battle flag. This brought the fund up to around \$4600. This is about a \$10,000 project, but very worthwhile. Those old flags are not only important artifacts, but also something to which those valiant old Confederate soldiers had a deep emotional attachment. Now, I've been on battalion staff a long time (is this really my seventh year?) and during that time I've considered myself a part of all

of the units. I've tried to act as impartially as I can, but I can't help but brag on my original home unit, the 13th SC. After the battalion voted to allocate the funds towards the preservation of that original flag, the 13th had a meeting and decided to donate an additional \$500 to that endeavor! I can't express just how proud of them I am!

Cheraw is coming up and a good time should be had by all at this little laid back event. There's a battle both days, a meal, a good lantern tour and we usually manage to have some fun times singing around the fire. Tony, is that river that goes by the site the Great Pee Dee or just the Pretty Good Pee Dee? I never can seem to remember.

I think that the Selma event will be a great one. I do hate that it conflicts with the Fairview Church event that the 2nd SC is doing as I will miss them greatly and wish that I could be at Fairview, too. If we could only find a way to be a two places at once... Well, I guess we still suffer from just too many events.

Of all the events that I went to last year, I had the most fun at Selma. Though we will be a Federal battalion for the battles, we have permission for any company that wishes to camp in the Confederate camp and, of course, you can go to the gala affair downtown as Confederate.

(Continued)

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Daniel L. Fodera, Editor

4861 Flagstone Ct

Evans, GA 30809

palmetto_vindicator@hotmail.com

2002 Battalion Events Calendar

Apr 5-7 Cheraw (BA)

Apr 26-28 Selma, AL (BA Max Effort)

Apr 26-28 Fairview Church

May 3 Memorial Day, River's Bridge

May 4 Memorial Day, Columbia (BA)

May 11 Memorial Day, Charleston (BA)

May 17-19 Resaca, GA (BA)

Jun 15 Ft. Lamar LH, James Island

Jun 28-30 140th Seven Days, VA -Info

Sep 13-15 140th Sharpsburg (BA Max Effort)

Sep 29 Battalion Elections, Columbia

Oct 4-6 Perryville, KY (BA MAX Effort)

Oct 11-12 Ghost Walk, Charleston -Info

Oct 18-20 Honey Hill (BA)

Oct 25-27 Brattonsville LH, York (BA)

Nov 2-3 Saluda LH

Nov 8-10 Secessionville (BA)

Dec 6-8 Gramling Mills LH

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Field Orders (continued from page 1)

At Selma the battalion staff will be in the Federal camp and though there's nothing wrong with the Confederate camp, the Federal one is just superb. It's right on a big river, just one of the most pleasant places for a camp that I've ever seen. The battles are intense, but not too strenuous. They start off in the woods and you fight across a bridge into the spectators view and eventually into a set of breastworks. The Federals are the attackers one day and the Confederates the other. There are pyrotechnics galore with a barn being burned one day and a house the next. It's big fun. Saturday evening they have shuttles that you can ride down to an opulent house with lots of goings on out back. A string band plays for a while, then a brass band for a while. Sunday has a memorial service in the cemetery adjacent to the event site where General Hardee is buried. Sunday's battle is kind of like Saturday's reversed. The event is really a lot of fun.

I hope that we can have a good turnout for state Confederate Memorial Day service on May 4 this year. For some reason the numbers have been down a little there for the last couple of years. It used to be that that was where we had our largest crowd all year. Battalion awards will be given out at that time, with Wayne Wilson, Steve Burt and Bob Kaemmerlin receiving well-earned recognition as the Soldier of the Year and the Burt Miller Service Award recipients. Let's make a good showing this year and fire those volleys crisp and sharp.

I shall see you in the field, my comrades.

Yr. Obdt. Srvt.,
A.J. Clamp
Colonel, Palmetto Battalion

The Lieut. Colonel

Greetings to all,

Well, I must admit it felt really great to be back on the field last week at Aiken. And with several more events coming up in the next few weeks, things are definitely looking good. Aiken was also the first time I have had a chance to lead a fairly large group of men on the field, and that was a good experience as well. I do appreciate everyone's patience with my learning curve as I try to (temporarily) suppress all my artillery instincts, but I am learning!

Last issue I talked about improving authenticity, and challenged everyone to pick one aspect of their impression that they wanted to upgrade in the coming year. It seems only fair that I should "come clean" and say what I intend to change in my impression. When I thought about it, the single worst part of my impression is my physical size. It's just wrong. So my challenge to myself is to improve on that during the coming year. Now I'm not going to admit to any numbers in a public forum, but I will say that I have already made progress. And the best part of all is that it won't cost me a dime! Seriously, if we look around, I suspect that most of us will find improvements that we can make which don't have to cost anything. It may be as simple as changing the food we bring for the weekend, or smoking a cigar instead of cigarettes. Putting those modern glasses in your pocket during the battle and doing what I have described as "authentically squinting!" Now of course some improvements do cost money, but even that can be minimized by making things for oneself, and by spreading cost over time.

The battalion has several great resources that we can go to when we need help with these things.

Having said all that, there is one authenticity issue at which the Palmetto Battalion already excels. I'm speaking of our commitment to correct drill. I have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating: the soldiers during the War Between the States drilled, and drilled, and drilled some more. We don't have that much time, but I think we do a pretty darned good job with the time we have. I'm proud to be part of the Palmetto Battalion, and will be proud to be in the field with all of you when we go to out-of-state events.

Speaking of out-of-state events (how's that for a segue) we have several coming up this year, and we need to do everything we can to make a good showing. Averasboro and Selma in particular are important events for us, so lets all make that extra effort and do the Battalion proud.

I remain, &cc,
Bruce Hoover
Lieut. Colonel, Palmetto Battalion

The Apple Crate Table

Fellers,

We just finished up with Aiken. Florence and Averasboro are just around the corner. Then come Cheraw, Selma & Fairview Church. Aiken was cold & windy; Florence may well be cold, windy and rainy. We might get the best of everything winter has to offer.

We're doing a great job getting the vehicles out of camp Friday evening. So much so, that it's almost a non-issue on Saturday morning. Now let's begin to look closer at how we look on the field.

We were pretty rusty on the drill field Saturday morning at Aiken. We had a very difficult time keeping our alignment. When we went on the field out Saturday afternoon we looked much, much better. Center corporals - remember to keep your distance off of the Captains. Remember to be looking left and right down your lines and keep the ranks dressed. Talk to the boys up and down the line, "Bring it up a step, slow it down a half-step," or whatever the case may be. The same applies to the First and Fourth Corporals - anchor the line. Keep it dressed. When we're wheeling, either you're marking time or stepping out, depending on whether it's a left or right wheel. You too need to be talking to the boys, keeping that dress. No one else needs to be talking in the ranks. I know it's easy to get excited, but fellers it's very important to maintain quiet in the ranks. If everybody's talking it's clear that chaos will prevail. Let the non-commissioned officers do the directing. If you can't hear them, let them know to speak up some.

One other quick thing. NCOs - stay in tune with your timepieces. Let's be ready for first and second call. Let's fall in at the appointed time, get our ranks dressed, get inspected, and then prepare to step off. As time goes on, we will find that the new weapons inspection paperwork will begin to flow much more orderly and naturally. In the long run, it will benefit each and every one of us from a safety standpoint. It will also get us in tune with what we should expect to become the norm at the National level events.

Oh, and one final thing. Fellers, when we resurrect, let's look for our companies. Go ahead and fall in as quickly as possible, then dress the Battalion for Pass In Review. The

spectators do appreciate it, and it makes the Battalion look so much better.

Lets continue to be safe and have fun.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
Wm R (Rick) Davis
Sergeant Major, Palmetto Battalion

Chaplain's Corner

Comrades,

Let me share something with you that I recently learned. During the War Between the States, a young Federal private was on guard duty at the White House. He had received a letter from his folks back home. As he read the letter, tears began to roll down his face.

A young boy saw the private crying and said to him, "Mister, what is wrong?" The soldier replied, "My folks are in need and I need to go home for a few days. But I can not because no one can go home that is in our company." The young boy said, "Please come with me." The young boy was Tad Lincoln, the President's son. He introduced the private to his father, the President of The United States. The President, Abraham Lincoln, granted the private a leave to go home to his family.

In the Bible, John 14:6 tells us "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

God Bless the Palmetto Battalion,
Wayne Lewis
Chaplain

South Carolina Department of Archives

Patrick McCawley, Reference Archivist
South Carolina Dept of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, SC 29233
Patrick@scdah.sc.state.us

Heavy Guns for Charleston

Even before South Carolina seceded on December 20, 1860, state leaders were quick to recognize that a sovereign nation would need to be able to defend itself from foreign powers. Several also recognized that the Federal government might not let the state leave peacefully. The state was not completely unarmed however. During the crisis of 1850-51, the state had purchased several large pieces of heavy ordnance from the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. These weapons were being stored at The Citadel and over the past decade had fallen into disrepair. Edward Manigault, general superintendent of the railroad between Charleston and Savannah, called Governor Gist's attention to the guns and their need to be repaired on November 19, 1860. He later reported on these first efforts.

"On the 21st of November 1860, before the establishment of the Board of Ordnance, his Excellency Govr. Gist did me the honor to appoint me to Superintend the Repairs of the Siege-Gun Carriages in Charleston; and to mount the Guns; as well as to do whatever might be necessary to render the said Artillery available for immediate service. This portion

of the work of Ordnance preparations was accordingly immediately commenced. The entire number of Thirty Eight Siege-Carriages, constructed in 1851-52, had to be repaired, and in a measure renewed; as they were found totally unfit for service. All the principal Foundries and Iron Establishments in the City were employed in this work of renovation; but from the unaccustomed nature of the work, and the obstinate conviction in the minds of the Proprietors of these establishments, that the Guns would never be used, it was found impossible to press on the work with any expedition; and it was near the end of December before 8 or 10 guns were mounted and ready for use. It is necessary to lay some stress upon this fact which I state that at that time very few people believed that the political questions which agitated the country, would finally result in hostilities, and hence it was impossible to get any persons to devote themselves to energetic preparations of Military Material."

SC Confederate Relic Room & Museum

John Bigham, Curator of Education
(803) 737-8097
jbigham@crr.state.sc.us

Completion Nears for the New Exhibition

We take here the liberty of presenting portions of text from "Battlefront," one of the 45 new exhibits.

"The night before a battle is never a pleasant one, but this was peculiarly trying...Strict silence was enjoined on every man. In the midst of this awful stillness, a shout arose in the lines of the enemy. One body of troops after another caught it up, till the country for miles around seemed to resound their horrible exultation. Three times three! It went from regiment to regiment, from brigade to brigade, waking the echoes of plain and forest to fiendish shrieks and bellowings. I could see shivers pass over the forms of our soldiers, vainly endeavoring to slumber on the cold, dewy earth, and myself started back at the future those yells promised us. Yet we lay and awaited the morrow." Prior to Second Manassas, a Confederate victory fought in Virginia on August 29 & 30, 1862, as recorded by Lieutenant James Fitz James Caldwell in **The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians, 1866**

In the spring of 1864 United States forces under General Ulysses S. Grant began an unrelenting pressure against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. *"A soldier from Company C, Third South Carolina, a young soldier just verging into manhood, had been shot in the first advance, the bullet severing the great artery of the thigh. The young man seeing his danger of bleeding to death before succor could possibly reach him, had struggled behind a small sapling. Bracing himself against it, he under took deliberative measures for saving his life. Tying a handkerchief above the wound, placing a small stone underneath and just over the artery, and putting a stick between the handkerchief and his leg, he began to tighten by twisting the stick around. But too late; life had fled, leaving both hands clasping stick, his eyes glassy and fixed."* Dickert, recalling an incident in the May 1864 Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia, **History of Kershaw's Brigade**

"A sadness pervades the army. How many of our brave comrades, who left this place to the call of battle, have gone to a bourne from whence none return. When I think of the heartrending wailing of the mothers, widows and orphans at home...Everything here is as still as a graveyard...Still, still as

death. The weight of dreadful silence is almost as terrorizing as the battle itself." J. W. Reid. After the Seven Days battles before Richmond, June 25 – July 1, 1862

"Our dear brother as you will see from my first letter was struck & instantly killed while gallantly holding his post in front of the enemy & faithfully discharging his duty to his Country. We buried him as decently as circumstances would allow, near the spot where he fell and this morning I placed a plainly marked head-piece above his grave so that it may be easily designated if Father comes on to remove his remains. Thomas W. Willis, Company C, 7th SCV Infantry to his sister on their brother, James A. Willis, killed in action at Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, last of the Seven Days' battles.

Many thanks for continued support of the Confederate Relic Room!

School Of The Soldier

From Rifle and Infantry Tactics, Revised and Improved, 1861
Brig Gen W.J. Hardee, CS Army

.Stack arms.

The men being at order arms, the instructor will command:

Stack-ARMS

410. At this command, number two of the front rank will pass his piece before him, seize it with the left hand about the middle band; slope it across the body, barrel to the rear, the butt three inches above the right toe of the man on his left, muzzle six inches to the right of his right shoulder.

411. Number two of the rear rank will turn his piece, lock square to the front, and pass it to his front rank man, who will seize it with his right hand about the middle band and incline it forward, resting the neck of the bayonet on that of his own bayonet and close to the blade. Number one of the front rank will turn the barrel of his piece square to the front, slope it across the body, place the neck of his bayonet, above the necks, and between the blades of the other two bayonets, holding the piece with the right hand at the middle band, the butt three inches from the ground at his right toe.

412. Number two of the front rank will throw the butt of the rear rank man's piece about thirty inches to the front, at the same time resting the butt of his own piece on the ground on the left, and a little in rear of his left toe. At the same instant, number one of the front rank will rest the butt of his piece on the ground, a little on front of his right toe. Number one of the rear rank will incline his piece on the stack thus formed.

413. The men of both ranks having taken the position of the soldier without arms, the instructor will command:

1. *Break ranks.* 2. MARCH.

To resume arms.

412. Both ranks being re-formed in rear of their stacks, the instructor will command:

Take-ARMS.

413. At this command number one of the rear rank will retake his piece. Number two of the front rank will seize his own piece with the left hand at the middle band, and his rear rank man's piece in like manner with his right hand; and number one of the front rank will seize his piece with his right hand in the same manner. These two men will raise the stack, bring the butts together and disengage the bayonets. Number two of the rear rank will receive his piece from his front rank man, and all will resume the position of *ordered arms.*

Did you notice any part of the drill that you're not doing by the book? I sure did. To do it by the book next time is a no cost way to improve our impressions. To review the complete version of the "Confederate Hardee's," go to The Drill Network, on the web at <http://home.att.net/~Cap1MD/Drill.htm>

Corrections

Please note the corrected dates for the Sharpsburg event. There is an event web site at www.antietamreenactment.com The dates we had have been incorrect for several issues. Also, somehow Saluda was left off the previous event calendar. Due to some technical problems with the Battalion website, the old 2001 is still posted. The staff is working on this. The schedule in the Vindicator has the correct dates.

Resources

By request, here's a new section for those of you who are looking to do some reading or even buy something for your impression:

If you are internet ready, and looking for some well written articles on Drill, Cooking and Rations, Camping, Uniforms and Equipment, and Improving your Impression, the website www.authentic-campaigner.com can't be beat. In addition to articles, every month they negotiate with a top quality maker/sutler for a discounted special, the "Bully Buy." February's Bully Buys were copies of an original 1862 Tower lock plate made to fit your reproduction Enfield and a Western manufactured unmarked 1861 pattern .58 cartridge box.

Speaking of specials, Ben Tart is still running the "Palmetto Battalion Special" for us. In case you're new to the Battalion and haven't heard: Ben Tart's patterns and fabrics are top of the line, based on solid textile research and hands on examination of original artifacts. The details of the special are:

Richmond Depot pattern jacket, in your choice of two fabrics, either #3F "Smoke" (This fabric is woven with wool from gray colored sheep) or #1F "Charcoal," both fabrics are wool jean on a natural cotton warp. The jacket is lined in cotton fabric with two interior pockets, and nine hand worked buttonholes. It is machine top-stitched.

The price is \$125 + \$5 shipping. He accepts money orders, cashier's checks and personal checks. You can get an order form at his web site www.bentart.com or write out your order, including your modern coat size, height, weight, and a daytime phone number. Send to: T, B&B, PO Box 28, Spring Hope, NC 27882. Be sure to ask for the Palmetto Battalion Special (item #PBS).

Library or bookstore resources: "Far, far, from home. The wartime letters of Dick and Tally Simpson, 3rd South Carolina Volunteers" Edited by Guy R. Everson and Edward W. Simpson, Jr. Published by Oxford University Press, 1994. A great first person contemporary book. It's emotionally powerful; you're reading the private letters of young men to their parents and sisters. It's also a fine research tool for eyewitness accounts on individuals in the 3rd SC and includes lots of details on what they ate, camp life, and several major battles.

Battle Summaries

American Battlefield Protection Program
National Park Service
<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/battles/bystate.htm>

Selma

Other Names: None

Location: Dallas County

Campaign: Wilson's Raid in Alabama and Georgia (1865)

Date(s): April 2, 1865

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson [US]; Lt. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest [CS]

Forces Engaged: Two cavalry divisions [US]; troops in city (approx. 5,000 men) [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 3,019 total (US 319; CS 2,700)

Description: Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson, commanding three divisions of Union cavalry, about 13,500 men, led his men south from Gravelly Springs, Alabama, on March 22, 1865. Opposed by Confederate Lt. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, Wilson skillfully continued his march and eventually defeated him in a running battle at Ebenezer Church, on April 1. Continuing towards Selma, Wilson split his command into three columns. Although Selma was well-defended, the Union columns broke through the defenses at separate points forcing the Confederates to surrender the city, although many of the officers and men, including Forrest and Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor, escaped. Selma demonstrated that even Forrest, whom some had considered invincible, could not stop the unrelenting Union movements deep into the Southern Heartland.

Result(s): Union victory

Resaca

Other Names: None

Location: Gordon County and Whitfield County

Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864)

Date(s): May 13-15, 1864

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [US]; Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CS]

Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 5,547 total (US 2,747; CS 2,800)

Description: Gen. Joseph E. Johnston had withdrawn from Rocky Face Ridge to the hills around Resaca. On the 13th, the Union troops tested the Rebel lines to pinpoint their whereabouts. The next day full scale fighting occurred, and the Union troops were generally repulsed except on the Rebel right flank where Sherman did not fully exploit his advantage. On the 15th, the battle continued with no advantage to either side until Sherman sent a force across the Oostanula River, at Lay's Ferry, towards Johnston's railroad supply line. Unable to halt this Union movement, Johnston was forced to retire.

Result(s): Inconclusive

The Selma Campaign by General William G. Rambo

In the spring of 1865, the fourth year of the War Between the States, Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson led 13,500 Union Cavalry and Mounted Infantry on a major raid deep into Alabama. His mission was to take the pressure off Union forces besieging the defenses of Mobile and occupying the attention of Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his Cavalry Corp. To accomplish this, Wilson planned to capture and destroy the vast Confederate arsenal at Selma

On March 22, Wilson's force left its winter camps in extreme northwest Alabama and headed southward to Elyton (present-day Birmingham). The Federal columns reached Elyton on March 30. The march had been uneventful other than the hardships of negotiating muddy roads and swollen streams caused by the heavy spring rains.

There was no opposition to Wilson's maneuvers because Forrest had been busy gathering his forces which, although numbered close to 10,000, were scattered over parts of Alabama and Mississippi. The Federals had wisely launched a simultaneous cavalry raid from extreme southeastern Alabama that caused Forrest to delay committing his main force until he could be sure of the real intentions of the invading Northerners. By the time Forrest was convinced that Wilson's force was his major threat and that Selma was his goal, the Yankees had a big advantage. Flooding streams and rivers seriously hindered the Confederate concentration of forces.

Even if Forrest could succeed in assembling his available troops, he would still have the disadvantage of facing superior numbers of Union Cavalry, who had brand new equipment, well-fed horses and seven shot Spencer repeating carbines. Forrest's men were armed with an assortment of single-shot rifles, shotguns and carbines. But they still had their Southern fighting spirit and they were led by one of the greatest generals of the war. One whose very name was "worth 10,000 men." On March 30, Wilson detached Gen. John T. Croxton's Brigade to destroy all Confederate property at Tuscaloosa. After capturing a Confederate courier who carried dispatches from Forrest describing the strengths and dispositions of his scattered forces, Wilson also sent a brigade to destroy the bridge across the Cahaba River at Centreville. This action effectively cut off most of Forrest's reinforcements. Then began a running fight that did not end until after the fall of Selma.

On the afternoon of April 1, after skirmishing all morning, Wilson's advanced guard ran into Forrest's line of battle at Ebenezer Church, where the Randolph Road intersected the main Selma road. Here Forrest had hoped to bring his entire force to bear on Wilson. However delays caused by flooding plus earlier contact with the enemy enabled Forrest to muster less than 2,000 men, a large number of whom were not veterans but militia consisting of old men and young boys.

The outnumbered and outgunned Confederates fought bravely for more than an hour as more Union Cavalry and Artillery deployed on the field. Forrest himself was wounded in a charge by a saber-swinging Yankee Captain (who he killed with his revolver). Finally, a mounted Federal charge with carbines blazing broke the Confederate militia causing Forrest to be flanked on his right. He was forced to retreat under severe pressure.

Early the next morning Forrest arrived at Selma, "horse and rider covered in blood." He advised Gen. Richard Taylor,

departmental commander, to leave the city. Taylor did so after giving Forrest command of the defense.

Selma was protected by three miles of fortifications, which ran in a semi-circle around the city. They were anchored on the north and south by the Alabama River. The works had been built two years earlier, and while neglected for the most part since, were still formidable. They were 8 to 12 feet high, 15 feet thick at the base, with a ditch 4 feet wide and 5 feet deep along the front. In front of this was a picket fence of heavy posts planted in the ground, 5 feet high, and sharpened at the top. At prominent positions, earthen forts were built with artillery in position to cover the ground over which an assault would have to be made.

Forrest's defenders consisted of his Tennessee escort company, McCullough's Missouri Regiment, Crossland's Kentucky Brigade, Roddey's Alabama Brigade, Armstrong's Mississippi Brigade, Gen. Dan Adam's state reserves, and the citizens of Selma who were "volunteered" to man the works. Altogether this force numbered less than 4,000, only half of whom were dependable. The Selma fortifications were built to be defended by 20,000 men. Forrest's soldiers had to stand 10 to 12 feet apart in the works.

Wilson's force arrived in front of the Selma fortifications at 2 pm. He had placed Gen. Eli Long's Division across the Summerfield Road with the Chicago Board of Trade Battery in support. He had Gen. Emory Upton's Division placed across the Range Line Road with Battery I, 4th US Artillery in support. Altogether Wilson had 9,000 troops available for the assault. The Federal commander's plan was for Upton to send in a 300 man detachment after dark to cross the swamp on the Confederate right; enter the works, and begin a flanking movement toward the center by moving along the line of fortifications. Then a single gun from Upton's artillery would signal the attack by the entire Federal Corps.

At 5 pm, however, Gen. Long's ammunition train in the rear was attacked by advance elements of Forrest's scattered forces coming toward Selma. Both Long and Upton had positioned significant numbers of troops in their rear for just such an event. However, Long decided to commence his assault against the Selma fortifications to neutralize the enemy attack in his rear. Long's troops attacked in a single rank in three main lines, dismounted with Spencers carbines blazing, supported by their own artillery fire. The Confederates replied with heavy small arms and artillery fire. The Southern artillery, in one of the many ironies of the War, only had solid shot on hand, while just a short distance away was an arsenal which produced tons of canister, a highly effective anti-personnel ammunition. The Federals suffered many casualties (including General Long himself) but not enough to break up the attack. Once the Yankees reached the works, there was vicious hand-to-hand fighting. Many were struck down with clubbed muskets. But the Yankees kept pouring into the works. In less than 30 minutes, Long's men had captured the works protecting the Summerfield Road.

Meanwhile, General Upton, observing Long's success, ordered his division forward. The story was much the same for his men as on Long's front. Soon, US flags could be seen waving over the works from Range Line Road to Summerfield Road. After the outer works fell, General Wilson himself led the 4th US Cavalry Regiment in a mounted charge down the Range Line Road toward the unfinished inner line of works. The retreating Confederate forces, upon reaching the inner works,

rallied and poured a devastating fire into the charging Yankee column. This broke up the charge and sent General Wilson sprawling to the ground when his favorite mount was wounded. He quickly remounted the stricken horse and ordered a dismounted assault by several regiments.

Mixed units of Confederate troops had also occupied the Selma railroad depot and the adjoining banks of the railroad bed to make a stand next to the Plantersville Road (present day Broad Street). The fighting there was heavy, but by 7 pm the superior numbers of Union troops had managed to flank the Southern positions causing them to abandon the depot as well as the inner line of works.

In the darkness, the Yankees rounded up hundreds of prisoners, but hundreds more escaped down the Burnsville Road, including Generals Forrest, Armstrong, and Roddey. To the west, many Confederate soldiers fought the pursuing Yankees all the way down to the eastern side of Valley Creek. They escaped in the darkness by swimming across the Alabama River near the mouth of Valley Creek (where the present day Battle of Selma Reenactment is held.)

The Yankees looted the city that night while many businesses and private residences were burned. They spent the next week destroying the arsenal and naval foundry. Then they left Selma heading to Montgomery and then Columbus and Macon, Georgia, and the end of the war.

Forrest rejoined his divisions at Marion while General Buford's Alabama and Mississippi Cavalry harassed Wilson's columns as they moved across central Alabama. Forrest then moved his command to Gainesville, where he was informed of the collapse of the armies led by Robert E. Lee and Joseph Johnston.